WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An instrument for incising an intraocular tissue, comprising:

a handle; and

a head portion attached to the handle and having a cutting edge, wherein the head portion defines a plane and the cutting edge extends from the head portion in a direction substantially transverse to the plane, the head portion including a main portion having a first radius and at least one extension portion continuous with the main portion and having a second radius different from the first radius, the head portion including spaced first and second ends which define an opening therebetween,

wherein the cutting edge is operable to engage the intraocular tissue and penetrate at least partially therethrough to create an incision in the intraocular tissue.

2. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the second radius is smaller than the first radius.

3. The instrument according to claim 2, wherein the first radius is between about 1.0 to 4.0 mm, and the second radius is between about 0.25 to 2.0 mm.

4. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the handle is connected to the head portion at an end of the extension portion.

5. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the handle is connected to the head portion at an intermediate point of the extension portion.

6. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the handle is connected to the head portion at an intermediate point of the main portion.

7. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the handle is connected to the head portion at a junction of the main portion and the at least one extension portion.

8. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the head portion is generally C-shaped and the at least one extension portion comprises a proximal leg extending from a first end of the main portion and a distal leg extending from a second end of the main portion.

9. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the head portion includes a second cutting edge opposing the cutting edge.

10. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the head portion has a wavy configuration.

11. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the cutting edge is serrated.

12. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the handle includes a generally horizontal portion extending along the plane of the head portion and an angled portion extending at an angle relative to the horizontal portion.

13. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the handle is connected to the head portion at a location greater than about 0.3 mm above the cutting edge.

14. The instrument according to claim 1, wherein the head portion further includes a tongue extending outwardly from a distal end of the head portion along the plane of the head portion.

15. An instrument for incising an intraocular tissue, comprising:

a handle; and

a generally C-shaped head portion having a cutting edge, wherein the head portion defines a plane and the cutting edge extends from the head portion in a direction substantially transverse to the plane, the head portion including

a generally semicircular central portion having a first radius, the central portion having first and second ends, and

proximal and distal legs continuous with the first and second ends of the central portion, respectively, the legs each having a second radius different from the first radius,

wherein the cutting edge is operable to engage the intraocular tissue and penetrate at least partially therethrough to create a curvilinear incision in the intraocular tissue.

16. The instrument according to claim 15, wherein the second radius is smaller than the first radius.

17. The instrument according to claim 16, wherein the first radius is between about 1.0 to 4.0 mm, and the second radius is between about 0.25 to 2.0 mm.

18. The instrument according to claim 15, wherein the handle is connected to the head portion at a location inward from an end of the proximal leg.

19. An instrument for incising an intraocular tissue, comprising:

a handle; and

a head portion having a cutting edge, wherein the head portion defines a plane and the cutting edge extends from the head portion in a direction substantially transverse to the plane, the head portion including a first portion having a first radius and a second portion continuous with the first portion and having a second radius different from the first radius,

wherein the cutting edge is operable to engage the intraocular tissue and penetrate at least partially therethrough to create an incision in the intraocular tissue.

20. The instrument according to claim 19, wherein the second radius is smaller than the first radius.

21. The instrument according to claim 20, wherein the first radius is between about 1.0 to 4.0 mm, and the second radius is between about 0.25 to 2.0 mm.

22. The instrument according to claim 19, wherein the handle is connected to the head portion at an end of the second portion.

23. The instrument according to claim 19, wherein the handle is connected to the head portion at an intermediate point of one of the first portion and the second portion.

24. A surgical kit for incising an intraocular tissue, comprising:

a first instrument including a handle and a head portion attached to the handle, the first instrument head portion including a main portion having a first radius and at least one extension portion continuous with the main portion and having a second radius different from the first radius, the first instrument head portion having spaced first and second ends which define an opening therebetween having a first orientation, wherein the first instrument head portion includes a cutting edge such that the head portion is operable to engage the intraocular tissue and penetrate at least partially therethrough to create a first incision in the intraocular tissue; and

a second instrument including a handle and a head portion attached to the handle, the second instrument head portion including a main portion having a first radius and at least one extension portion continuous with the main portion and having a second radius different from the first radius, the second instrument head portion having spaced first and second ends which define an opening therebetween having a second orientation, wherein the second instrument head portion includes a cutting edge such that the head portion is operable to engage the intraocular tissue and penetrate at least partially therethrough to create a second incision in the intraocular tissue, wherein creating adjacent first and second incisions results in a continuous tissue flap incised in the intraocular.

25. The surgical kit according to claim 24, wherein the first and second instruments each include a generally C-shaped head portion including a generally semicircular central portion having a first radius, the central portion having first and second ends, and proximal and distal legs continuous with the first and second ends of the central portion, respectively, the legs each having a second radius smaller than the first radius.

26. The surgical kit according to claim 24, wherein the first and second instruments each include a head portion including a first portion having a first radius and a second portion continuous with the first portion and having a second radius smaller than the first radius.

27. A method for incising an intraocular tissue, comprising:

creating a wound in one of a corneal region and a scleral region of an eye;

inserting an instrument through the wound and into proximity with the intraocular tissue, the instrument including a handle and a head portion attached to the handle having a cutting edge, the head portion including a main portion having a first radius and at least one extension portion continuous with the main portion and having a second radius different from the first radius, the head portion including spaced first and second ends which define an opening therebetween; and

engaging the intraocular tissue with the cutting edge and penetrating at least partially through the intraocular tissue in order to create an incision therein.

28. A method for incising an intraocular tissue, comprising:

creating a wound in one of a corneal region and a scleral region of the eye;

inserting a first instrument through the wound and into proximity with the intraocular tissue, the first instrument including a handle and a head portion attached to the handle, the head portion including a main portion having a first radius and at least one extension portion continuous with the main portion and having a second radius different from the first radius, the first instrument head portion including a cutting edge having a first orientation;

engaging the intraocular tissue with the cutting edge of the first instrument head portion and penetrating at least partially through the intraocular tissue in order to create a first incision therein;

inserting a second instrument through the wound and into proximity with the intraocular tissue, the second instrument including a handle and a head portion attached to the handle, the head portion including a main portion having a first radius and at least one extension portion continuous with the main portion and having a second radius different from the first radius, the second instrument head portion including a cutting edge having a second orientation which opposes the first orientation; and

engaging the intraocular tissue with the cutting edge of the second instrument head portion and penetrating at least partially through the intraocular tissue in order to create a second incision therein adjacent the first incision, thereby resulting in a continuous tissue flap incised in the intraocular tissue.

29. The method according to claim 28, wherein the first and second instruments each include a generally C-shaped head portion including a generally semicircular central portion having a first radius, the central portion having first and second ends, and proximal and distal legs continuous with the first and second ends of the central portion, respectively, the legs each having a second radius smaller than the first radius, wherein imprecise alignment of the first and second incisions can still result in an overlap of the first and second incisions and a continuous tissue flap.

30. The method according to claim 28, wherein the first and second instruments each include a head portion including a first portion having a first radius and a second portion continuous with the first portion and having a second radius smaller than the first radius, wherein the first and second incisions create an enlarged end of the flap proximal to the wound.

31. A method for incising an intraocular tissue, comprising:

creating a wound in one of a corneal region and a scleral region of the eye;

inserting an instrument through the wound and into proximity with the intraocular tissue, the instrument including a handle and a head portion attached to the handle, the head portion having first and second opposed cutting edges;

engaging the intraocular tissue with the first cutting edge and penetrating at least partially through the intraocular tissue in order to create a first incision therein;

rotating the instrument approximately 180° about a longitudinal axis of the handle;

engaging the intraocular tissue with the second cutting edge and penetrating at least partially through the intraocular tissue in order to create a second incision therein adjacent the first incision, thereby resulting in a continuous tissue flap incised in the intraocular tissue.

32. An instrument for incising an intraocular tissue, comprising:

a handle;

a curvilinear head portion attached to the handle and having a cutting edge, wherein the head portion defines a plane and the cutting edge extends from the head portion in a direction substantially transverse to the plane, the head portion including spaced first and second ends which define an opening therebetween; and

a tongue extending outwardly from a distal end of the head portion along the plane of the head portion,

wherein the cutting edge is operable to engage the intraocular tissue and penetrate at least partially therethrough to create an incision in the intraocular tissue.